

School District of Gilmanton
Bylaws & Policies

Book	Policy Manual
Section	9000 Relations
Title	PUBLIC REQUESTS, SUGGESTIONS, OR COMPLAINTS
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9130 - PUBLIC REQUESTS, SUGGESTIONS, OR COMPLAINTS

Any individual(s), having a legitimate interest in the staff, programs and operations of this District shall have the right to present a request, suggestion, or complaint to the District and the Board. At the same time, the Board has a right to protect District staff from harassment, disclosure of confidential information, and other violations of the staff or student's rights. It is the intent of this policy to provide a process for considering and addressing public requests, suggestions, or complaints in an efficient, reasonable, and equitable manner. Requests, suggestions, or complaints made by District staff members are covered by Policy 1422, Policy 3122, and Policy 4122. This policy is not to be used to appeal or to otherwise seek review of a personnel decision that was or could have been reviewed through the grievance policy, Policy 3340 or Policy 4340.

It is the desire of the Board to address any such matters through direct, informal discussions. It is only when attempts at informal resolution fail that more formal procedures shall be used.

Generally, requests, suggestions, or complaints reaching the Board or Board members shall be referred to the District Administrator for consideration. Any individual presenting such a matter shall be provided with a copy of this policy. Only those items that are appropriate for consideration under this policy will be considered. The Board reserves the right to dismiss any item raised if it is not appropriate for consideration under this policy.

Guidelines for Matters Regarding a Staff Member

A. First Level

Generally, if the matter concerns a staff member the individual(s) should discuss the matter with the staff member. The staff member shall take appropriate action within his/her authority and District administrative guidelines to deal with the matter.

Discussion with the staff member may not be appropriate in some situations including, for example, where the matter involves suspected child abuse, substance abuse, or any other serious allegation that may require investigation or inquiry by school officials prior to approaching the staff member.

As appropriate, the staff member shall report the matter and whatever action may have been taken to the District Administrator.

B. Second Level

If the matter has not been satisfactorily addressed at the First Level or it would be inappropriate to discuss the matter with the staff member, the individual(s) may discuss the matter with the staff member's supervisor, if applicable. Discussions with the supervisor shall occur promptly following any discussion with the staff member.

C. Third Level

If the matter has not been satisfactorily addressed at the Second level, and the matter does not involve the District Administrator, the individual(s) may submit a written request for a conference to the District Administrator. This request should include:

1. the specific nature of the request, suggestion or complaint and a brief statement of the facts giving rise to it;
2. the respect in which it is alleged that the individual(s) (or child of a complainant) has been affected adversely;
3. the action which the individual(s) wishes taken and the reasons why it is felt that such action be taken.

The request must be submitted promptly after discussion with the staff member's supervisor. The District Administrator shall respond in writing to the individual(s) and shall advise the Board of any resolution of the matter.

D. Fourth Level

If the matter has not been satisfactorily addressed at the Third Level, or at the First Level in the case of a matter involving the District Administrator, the individual(s) may submit a written request to the Board to address the matter. Any such request must be submitted promptly after receiving the District Administrator's written response. The written submission shall include all correspondences pertaining to the matter between the individual and any School District officials or employees.

The Board, after reviewing all material relating to the matter, may, at its discretion, provide the individual(s) with a written response or grant an opportunity to address the Board at a properly noticed meeting, which may be held in closed session at the discretion of the Board when consistent with Wisconsin's Open Meetings law.

The individual(s) shall be advised, in writing, of the Board's decision or action taken, if any, prior to the next regular meeting. The Board's decision will be final on the matter. The Board may choose to consolidate complaints or other communications for consideration if more than one individual raises similar concerns before it, but reserves the right to refuse to consider any subsequent complaint on the same matter unless previously unknown material facts are raised.

If the individual(s) contacts an individual Board member to discuss the matter, the Board member shall inform the individual that s/he has no authority to act in his/her individual capacity and shall refer the individual(s) to this policy or the District Administrator for further assistance.

Guidelines for Matters Regarding District Services or Operations

If the matter relates to a District procedure or operation, it should be addressed, initially, to the District Administrator and then in subsequently higher levels as prescribed in "Guidelines for Matters Regarding a Staff

Member".

Guidelines for Matters Regarding Enrollment Disputes

If the matter relates to disputes concerning student residency determination, Homelessness under the McKinney-Vento Act, or related issues, the matter should be addressed initially to the District's Residency or Homelessness Coordinator, and then to the Third Level of the process for "Matters Regarding a Staff Member".

Guidelines for Matters Regarding the Educational Program

If the matter relates to a District program, it should be addressed, initially, to the District Administrator and then in subsequently higher levels as prescribed in "Matters Regarding a Staff Member".

Guidelines for Matters Regarding Instructional Materials

The District Administrator shall provide that students and parents are adequately informed each year regarding their right to inspect instructional materials used as part of the educational curriculum and the procedure for completing such an inspection. See Policy 2416.

If the request, suggestion, or complaint relates to instructional materials such as textbooks, library books, reference works, and other instructional aids used in the District, the following procedure shall be followed:

- A. The criticism is to be addressed to the teacher or librarian, in writing, and shall include:
 1. author;
 2. title;
 3. publisher;
 4. the complainant's familiarity with the material objected to;
 5. sections objected to by page and item;
 6. reasons for objection.
- B. If the request, suggestion, or complaint relates to the human growth and development curriculum or instructional materials, it shall be referred to the advisory committee responsible for developing the human growth and development curriculum and advising the Board on the design, review, and implementation of the curriculum. (See Policy 2414).
- C. The District Administrator shall be an ex officio member of the committee.
- D. The committee, in evaluating the questioned material, shall be guided by the following criteria:
 1. the appropriateness of the material for the age and maturity level of the students with whom it is being used
 2. the accuracy of the material
 3. the objectivity of the material
 4. the use being made of the material
- E. The material in question may be temporarily withdrawn from use pending final resolution of the matter.

- F. The committee's recommendation shall be reported to the District Administrator in writing within thirty (30) business days following the formation of the committee. The District Administrator will advise the individual(s), in writing, of the committee's recommendation and the District Administrator's decision. The District Administrator shall also advise the Board of the committee's recommendation and his/her decision.
- G. The individual(s) may submit an appeal of the District Administrator's decision in writing to the Board President within thirty (30) business days of receiving the decision. The written appeal and all written material relating to it shall be referred to the Board for consideration.
- H. The Board shall review the matter and advise the individual(s), in writing, of its decision as soon as practicable. The Board shall determine on a case-by-case basis whether its review will include appearances by the petitioner and administration, be conducted based on written submissions, or only on the record produced by the Committee.

No challenged material may be permanently removed from the curriculum or from a collection of resource materials except by action of the Board, and no challenged material may be removed solely because it presents ideas that may be unpopular or offensive to some. Any Board action to remove material will be accompanied by the Board's statement of its reasons for the removal.

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